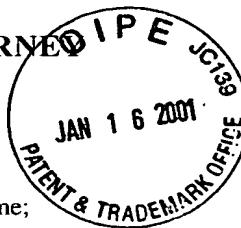


COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION
(Page 1)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND STORAGE MEDIUM,

the specification of which [] is attached hereto. [x] was filed on September 28, 2000

as United States Application No. or PCT International Application No. 09/671,623
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filed (Day/Mo./Yr.)</u>	(Yes/No) <u>Priority Claimed</u>
JAPAN	11-278953	30/09/1999	Yes
JAPAN	11-279382	30/09/1999	Yes
JAPAN	11-279379	30/09/1999	Yes
JAPAN	11-280598	30/09/1999	Yes
JAPAN	11-279984	30/09/1999	Yes
JAPAN	11-279987	30/09/1999	Yes
JAPAN	11-279988	30/09/1999	Yes
JAPAN	2000-097124	31/03/2000	Yes

I hereby appoint the practitioners associated with the firm and customer number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to the address associated with that Customer Number:

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
Customer Number: 05514

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**
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